



March 30, 2020

Dear Parents, Custodians and Agents,

The Langley School District International Student Program is working to keep on top of the fast-evolving global health situation, and we'd like to reassure you that the safety of our students is always our first priority. When we accept international students into our District, we consider them one of our own students and their health, well-being, and education are most important to us. We continue to work closely with British Columbia Ministries of Health and Education to ensure the continued safety and well-being of all students and staff. You can refer to the District's webpage [here](#) for the latest information. This is where you will find all our District communication including the March 27, 2020 message to all Langley School District parents from Langley Superintendent, Mr Gord Stewart [here](#) and Continuity of Learning Plan [here](#).

Continuity of Learning

Please watch the video [here](#) from Langley School District Superintendent, Mr. Gord Stewart to parents and students about **what to expect Week #1: March 30-April 3, 2020**.

The regularly planned Spring Break has come to an end (March 27) and in-class instruction was originally scheduled to resume on March 30. As per the Provincial Education Ministry announcement, all in-person classes are now suspended indefinitely. However, teachers will be continuing learning for students remotely and students will finish their courses or grade. In Langley, staff are working hard to prepare for what our continued learning will look like as both the Province and our District are committed to continuity of learning to provide education to our students.

Please note that it will take a few days when teachers return to work to get everything arranged. In the meantime, ensure that you and your child check your email/school app or any other social media/messaging that you currently use to communicate with school staff for any updated information coming directly from the school and classroom teacher(s).

You should receive an initial communication from your school on or before Wednesday, April 1. This first contact may be only to confirm that they have your current email contact information. The hope is that by **Friday, April 3, you will have received basic details from your teacher(s) and International School Coordinators about what to expect in the coming weeks.** All information about your learning and instruction will come directly from your school and teacher(s) and do note that instruction will not be continuing in all areas in the first few weeks as there will be a gradual transition to remote learning. If you do not hear from teachers or your school, please reach out to them to ensure they have your correct email contact information.

International students who are enrolled with a K-12 school in BC will be allowed to complete their coursework from overseas, therefore, it is important to ensure you are keeping in touch directly with your school and teacher(s).



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Every student will receive a final mark, and all students on track to pass their grade will do so. Therefore, studies for the next school year will not be affected. All students eligible to graduate and who have met all the requirements will graduate. Final report cards will be regularly issued in June/July. We will continue with the process of preparing reports for validation, for those students that request this service.

Early Return to Home Country

We continue to receive some inquiries from agents and parents about students returning home early. We recognize that this is a very personal and sometimes difficult decision that only a parent and family can make. Parents need to weigh the risk of their child remaining in Canada versus that of having them travel back to their home country. Due to travel restrictions and the closure of our Canadian border as well as the requirement to self-isolate upon arrival in Canada, we anticipate that students without a valid study permit that choose to leave will not be able to return to Langley for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year, or possibly beyond that date. Further, we cannot provide advice on travel or re-entry to Canada even for students who do hold a valid study permit as travel restrictions may change. The most current information we have is as follows:

According to [messaging on Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada website updated March 26](#):

“As announced on March 20, 2020, international students who held a valid study permit or had been approved for a study permit when the travel restrictions took effect on March 18, 2020, will be able travel to Canada by air or land. They will be exempt from air travel and border restrictions. This exemption is to accommodate students who are in the middle of their course of study or who have just been approved to study in Canada but were outside Canada when the travel restrictions took effect.

Like all travellers, including Canadian citizens and permanent residents, international students who are exempt from air travel restrictions will undergo the necessary health checks and must isolate for 14 days upon arrival in Canada.”

We encourage you to closely monitor the [IRCC website](#) and the [Government of Canada's travel website](#). We leave this important decision up to families and support you in whatever decision you decide is best for your family.

IMPORTANT: If you have left the country and returned home, please ensure you let the International Student Department and teacher(s) know (if you have not already done so).

Medical Insurance

For those with a study permit and covered with the [BC Medical Services Plan \(MSP\)](#): If a student were to get sick here in British Columbia during their time in our program, they are insured. This includes if the student were to contract COVID-19 during their time here in our province.



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For those without a study permit and covered with [Guard.me private insurance](#):

If a student were to get sick here in British Columbia during their time in our program, they are insured for anything that is not a pre-existing condition. This includes if the student were to contract COVID-19 during their time here in our province.

Refund Policy

As Langley School District will provide continuity of learning to all of Langley's learners from now until the end of the school year, there is no plan to change this policy. Regarding the September 2020 intake, it is too soon to determine how learning and entry into Canada will be affected. Many of the decisions – borders closing, schools going on longer breaks, etc. – are made by different levels of government. The District will consider these decisions when their effects become clearer, and we will notify all agents, parents and custodians when we have additional information or policy changes to share.

International Student Department (Board Office)

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Our homestay coordinators are continuing to work with families to support ISP students and are in regular communication with them. At this time, the Langley School Board Office is not accessible for in-person visits, however, the Langley School District International Student Program is still open and can be accessed through email at ISP@Sd35.bc.ca . Please email us and we will respond to your question and inquiries. Please do not visit our office as it is not accessible at this time.

Please ensure you monitor your email for updated information as it becomes available. However, we encourage you to await more information from your child's school. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through this challenging and unprecedented time. You can also visit the Langley School District Website at <https://www.sd35.bc.ca> for all up to date information and communication sent to parents and students.

Once again, we'd like to reassure you that the health and safety of our students and staff is always our first priority and of utmost importance.

Sincerely,

Mark Leiper
District Principal
International Education Program
Langley School District